

My amendment stays within the spirit of the Child Health Initiative, it focuses Federal money on providing health care coverage to new, uninsured children at low income levels first. It does not take money from any other State, but merely allows Washington to draw on its own allotment. Staff discussions with CBO and CRS confirm that the amendment does not change the amount other States will receive. CRS is in the process of developing an official memo to that effect. A progressive think tank, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities also states that the amendment would not alter State allocations. The amendment allows States which have already expanded eligibility levels to 200 percent to receive an "enhanced Federal match" if it provides health care coverage to uninsured kids between the current mandatory levels and the new level of 200 percent set in the budget agreement. Additionally, my State would be required to maintain its current effort. Washington must spend the same amount on children's health care that it does in fiscal year 1997, in subsequent years before it can receive any money provided for under the Child Health Initiative.

The proposal does not take money from other States nor does it provide additional Federal subsidies for children the State is now covering, it simply allows Washington and the other few expansion States to continue to do the good work they have already started.

SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Senator SPECTER for his leadership and support in my recent efforts to provide full funding for the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act [IDEA].

For the past 2 years, one of my top priorities has been to ensure that the Federal Government lives up to its promise to provide 40 percent of the funding for the costs of complying with Federal special education mandates. The current level of 8 percent or 9 percent is unacceptable. In addition, I believe that it is important to secure increased funding for IDEA to ease the burden on local schools and communities. For these reasons, I am grateful to Senator SPECTER for helping us move closer to full funding to help these communities.

As a result of our combined efforts, in the fiscal year 1998 Labor-HHS appropriations bill, State grants for part B of IDEA are allocated \$3.94 billion, which is a \$834 million or 27 percent increase over last year's funding level. As chairman of another appropriations subcommittee, I know how difficult, if not virtually impossible, it is to provide such a significant increase to a large account. Thus, I truly appreciate Senator SPECTER's efforts and leadership on this issue. I'm sure that the Nation's special education students and the local communities that educate them are equally as grateful to Senator SPECTER for his support.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business for Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO CAPT. ROBERT C. KLOSTERMAN, U.S. NAVY, COMMANDING OFFICER, U.S.S. "JOHN C. STENNIS"

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to recognize and say farewell to an outstanding naval officer, Capt. Robert C. Klosterman, who served with distinction for 41 months as commanding officer of the U.S.S. *John C. Stennis* nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, named for the great Senator from Mississippi. It is a privilege for me to recognize his many outstanding achievements and commend him for the superb service he has provided the Navy and our great Nation.

A native of Cincinnati, OH, Captain Klosterman graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1969 and was designated a Naval Aviator in 1970 at NAS Kingsville, TX. He flew over 440 combat missions in Vietnam, piloting UH-1B gunships with Helicopter Attack (Light) Squadron 3. Following his service in Vietnam, Captain Klosterman returned as a flight instructor with VT-9 at Meridian, MS, where he served as Director of Flight Training and Operations Officer through 1973.

Captain Klosterman's service at sea includes junior officer and department head tours in VA-86 (U.S.S. *Nimitz*) and two instructor pilot tours in VA-174. He joined Attack Squadron 46 (VA-46) as executive officer in June 1984 and took command in January 1986. During his tour, VA-46 participated in combat operations against Libya from U.S.S. *America*, and was awarded the 1986 COMNAVAIRLAN Battle "E." Captain Klosterman completed naval nuclear power training in 1988 and was executive officer of U.S.S. *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69) from June 1989 to April 1991. He is a veteran of Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm, as well as Operations Restore Hope and Southern Watch.

During his naval career, Captain Klosterman has accumulated over 5,800 flight hours and made over 1,000 carrier arrested landings. His decorations include the Legion of Merit, 3 Meritorious Service Medals, 15 Air Medals, the

Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, and the Combat Action Ribbon. He was also the recipient of the 1986 COMLATWING ONE Pat Anderson Award for weapons delivery excellence.

As commanding officer of the U.S.S. *John C. Stennis*, he delivered to the Nation and the U.S. Navy the most modern and technologically advanced nuclear-powered aircraft carrier in the world. He did this while realizing over \$75 million in savings to the taxpayers, for which we owe him a debt of gratitude.

Mr. President, Robert C. Klosterman, his wife Rebecca, and son Todd have no doubt made many sacrifices during his 28-year naval career. They have made significant contributions to the outstanding naval forces upon which our country relies so heavily. Captain Klosterman is a great credit to both the Navy and the country he so proudly serves. As this decorated combat veteran now departs the Navy, I call upon my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to wish him fair winds and following seas. He is a sailor's sailor.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business Friday, September 5, 1997, the federal debt stood at \$5,414,427,865,442.08. (Five trillion, four hundred fourteen billion, four hundred twenty-seven million, eight hundred sixty-five thousand, four hundred forty-two dollars and eight cents)

One year ago, September 5, 1996, the federal debt stood at \$5,225,564,000,000 (Five trillion, two hundred twenty-five billion, five hundred sixty-four million)

Twenty-five years ago, September 5, 1972, the federal debt stood at \$435,268,000,000 (Four hundred thirty-five billion, two hundred sixty-eight million) which reflects a debt increase of nearly \$5 trillion—\$4,979,159,865,442.08 (Four trillion, nine hundred seventy-nine billion, one hundred fifty-nine million, eight hundred sixty-five thousand, four hundred forty-two dollars and eight cents) during the past 25 years.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)